

NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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Media Opportunity THIS SATURDAY –

National Adoption Day November 15, 2008

The communities listed below will participate in Nebraska's National Adoption Day. The Nebraska Supreme Court will allow cameras in courtrooms if the judge presiding over the case agrees and the adoptive parents have signed a waiver. Please check with the contact person for each celebration for participating families. Sample waivers can be found on the national Web site at: http://www.nationaladoptionday.org/2007/documents/Event_Planners_Page/Utilizing_Spokespeople/Personal_Release_Form.doc

National Adoption Day Celebrations in Nebraska 2008

Grand Island Celebration -----

Adoption:

Hamilton County Courthouse – 9:00 a.m., family to attend party in Grand Island

Celebration:

Blessed Sacrament Church, 518 W State Street, Grand Island, NE 68801

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Contact: Marge Creason – DHHS - 308-385-6123

marge.creason@nebraska.gov

Theme: "Adoption is a Win-Win Life Choice"

Celebrating forty (40) children who have or will be adopted by twenty-two families in 2008 out of the Grand Island and Kearney office of DHHS.

Judge Linda Senff, will open the Hamilton County Courthouse to finalize an adoption in Aurora at 9:00 a.m. on November 15, 2008.

This year families of children that have been adopted in 2006, 2007, and 2008 have been invited. Judge Mac Martin of Hall County will attend the Grand Island party to recognize the adoptions of 2008 and David Seizys, former Nebraska Husker football player (who was himself adopted), will serve as guest speaker. David, his wife, children and his adoptive parents plan to attend the celebration.

Gift packages include items donated by local businesses and the Tri-City Coalition for Post Adoption Supports and Services. This will include an adoption book, puzzles, games, books, cards, board games, popcorn, and gift certificates for movies. Family photos will be taken of 2008 families.

Lunch will follow, all items donated from area businesses and individuals. After lunch, there will be activities for all the children and their families, including face painting, and family games.

Hastings Celebration ----- **10th Judicial District County Court Adoption Day**

Adoptions:

Adams County Courthouse, approximately 10:00 a.m., call for times

Celebration:

Adams County Fairgrounds, Hastings

11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Contact:

Michael Offner - 10th Judicial District

402 746 2763

mjoffner@gpcom.net

Theme: Heroes – law enforcement, military, firefighters

Luncheon/party at the Adams County Fairgrounds honoring law enforcement, ambulance, firefighters and military. Each group will have members of their organization at the luncheon along with their vehicles, equipment, etc. Games will have 'hero' themes. The final heroes to be recognized will be new parents and families. All new families who went through adoptions throughout the 10th Judicial District in 2008 are invited to attend -- 23 of these adoptions were completed this past year.

Adoption Day efforts were expanded in 2008: Judge Offner will host judges and court staff from other Judicial Districts to assist in starting additional celebrations. The group held their first annual Adoption Day Golf Tournament in Hastings which brought in needed dollars – some of which was shared with the Grand Island celebration.

Also, the 10th judicial planning group is looking into being a sponsor for a local Foster Youth Council. These councils are a group of young people (14-24) who are currently or were formerly in foster care. The FYC works to better the foster care system for children for children through advocacy, projects and presentations.

Lincoln Celebration -----

Adoptions:

Lancaster County Juvenile Court

575 South 10th Street, Justice and Law Enforcement Center

8:30 a.m. to Noon – 15 minute break at 10 a.m. for press conference

Celebration:

Justice and Law Enforcement Center – 3rd floor

8:30 a.m. to Noon p.m. with 10 a.m. Press Conference

Contact:

Theresa Emmert

402 441-5646

temmert@lancaster.ne.gov

Party to be held throughout 3rd floor, although number of adoptions (nearly 60 children) necessitates the use of courtrooms on multiple floors. Fifteen minute break will be taken at 10:00 a.m. so that host judge Reggie Ryder and Chief Justice Mike Heavican can address group. This is a record number of adoptions for the Lincoln program.

Omaha Celebration -----

Adoptions:

Douglas County Courthouse, Civic Center side

19th and Farnam

Beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Celebration:

Douglas County Courthouse, Civic Center side

8:30 a.m. Press Conference (second floor) kick-off with party on main floor

Contact:

Debbie Peck

402 444-7889

Debbie.peck@douglascounty-ne.gov

Main entry and cafeteria area reserved for party, first family photos and family activities. Press conference speakers include host judge Wadie Thomas and multiple foster-adopt parent Kathy Plato. There are approximately 45 children being adopted this year. This is the 9th anniversary for Omaha's adoption day program.